

“My Mother’s History” by Elizabeth Bywater Bell. Written abt 1945 at Salt Lake City

My mother’s name was Sarah Jane James. Her father was William James and her mother was Elizabeth Thomas. Her maternal grandparents were David Thomas and Dorothy Walters; they were born at St Margetts, Herefordshire, England. Mother’s father was born in Eaton Parish, Herefordshire, England. Mother was born in Sugwaspool, Strutton, Herefordshire, England, 24th of Oct 1836, my mother was born.

Mother was one of a family of seven children and always spoken of as the flower of the family. She was noted for her sweet, amiable, and unselfish disposition. She was educated at Brenton School, Herefordshire, England. Mother was baptised into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints 28th May 1854 by Elder Perry of Utah and confirmed the same day. While a member of the Hereford branch of the church mother met Elder Henry Gwilliam Bywater, a traveling Elder from South Wales. After a courtship of nearly five years they were married Dec 26, 1860 at Abergaveny South Wales. Mother and father lived in South Wales for some time. Their first child, a daughter was born there. They afterwards moved to England, living there several years. They had one daughter and two sons born while living in Herefordshire, England. The little daughter died at the age of two years. (Elinor) Father and mother finally grew very anxious to go to Utah to live with the saints in Zion. They worked hard to this end and finally father set sail for New York intending to live there for a short time and then go on to Utah. He thought it would be too hard for Mother to land in a strange country and no home to go to so he left her and her little family in England with her people until he had prepared a home for her in New York and then sent for her. Mother’s voyage across the ocean was a hard one; she was very sick nearly all of the time. The third day out at sea a terrific storm arose which alarmed the passengers greatly and they were so terrified that every one prayed for their lives to be spared. Her oldest boy was so very sick he was taken to the ship’s hospital and kept there for eleven days. This was a trial to Mother. After a long time in a sailing vessel Mother arrived in New York with two sick children and she was so weak herself she could hardly walk. Her little 14 months old baby died in less than two weeks after landing in their new home. (George). Father finally settled in Brooklyn, N.Y. Mother had one little daughter born in America (Elizabeth Jane) making five children in all. During the time they lived in Brooklyn which was 14 years, Father was President of the Church Branch and Mother was President of the Relief Society.

They left New York with their family for Utah Sept 12th 1883, arrived in Utah Sept 17th making the trip in six days. They left with a company of Saints. Each railroad car had a captain in charge. Father was captain of the President of the Mission’s car and we were very comfortable. All went well until they were stopped at a small station in Nebraska owing to some part of the engine getting

out of order. This was at a shipping point for cattle where twenty-five cowboys had just shipped their cattle and were celebrating the occasion in their usual way by getting drunk and making it disagreeable for everybody. They surrounded the train and with drawn revolvers abused the men and women shamefully and forced their way through many of the cars. Father stepped out of our car and locked the door, and placing himself against it stood ready for the gang of men. When they found the door locked it enraged them so much that one of them placed his revolver over Father's heart and said he would fill him full of holes. Father laughed and always being a great joker he joked with them and succeeded in calming them and they passed on. I can well remember although only a small child that Mother hid me under her skirts when she heard them at the door of our car and she was so frightened for fear they would kill Father she fainted and was very sick after for some time.

Soon after arriving in Salt Lake City Father and Mother made the trip to Logan for their Temple work.

Mother only lived only three years (correction, five years) after arriving in Utah. She died on Feb. 18th at the age of 52 Years. Mother was not a pioneer but she was such a dear good mother always so gentle and sweet and one of her traits of character was shown in doing charity deeds for those in need. To know her was to love her.

Her children were as follows:

Sarah Ann Bywater	born 9 Dec 1861	died 22 Dec 1918
Henry James Bywater	born 28 Oct 1863	died 24 Mar 1924
Eleanor Martha Bywater	born 7 May 1866	died 24 Apr 1868
George Gwilliam Bywater	born 7 June 1868	died 28 July 1869
Elizabeth Jane Bywater	born 3 July 1870	died 29 Jan 1949

Mother had very dark red hair and was beautiful.

My maternal grandparents--William James and Elizabeth Thomas

My maternal great grandparents--David Thomas and Dorothy Walters

My maternal great great grandparents--James Thomas and Ann Price

My paternal grandparents--George Henry Bywater and Elinor Gwillym

My paternal great grandparents--John Bywater and Mary Lewis

My paternal great great grandparents--George Bywater and Martha

My paternal 3rd great grandparents--Thomas Bywater and Ann Evans

Children of George Henry Bywater and Elinor Gwillym were

1-George Gwillym Bywater

2-John Bywater d infant

3-Henry Gwillym Bywater

4-Thomas Bywater

5-John Bywater d 10yrs

6-David Gwillym Bywater

& one daughter

7-Elinor Gwillym Bywater